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Iceland Volcano Update

1218 BST on Tuesday, 11 May 2010

Latest information received from the Icelandic Meteorological Office indicates that the explosive activity from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano is continuing, with the ash plume reaching heights of up to around 18,000 ft. The Icelandic Met Office state that there are no signs that the eruption is about to end, with the volcanic eruption remaining dynamic.

Winds are expected to blow from a mainly north or north easterly direction over the next few days, with most of the ash cloud likely to stay over the Atlantic Ocean and close to western parts of the British Isles. As a result NATS continues to advise aircraft about airspace restrictions affecting transatlantic flights, allowing them to cross the Atlantic safely. Recent weather patterns mean that the ash cloud has drifted across some parts of central and southern Europe, leading to disruption.

As the volcanic activity changes, the Met Office will continue to provide frequently updated information to NATS and CAA about the dispersion of the volcanic ash, in line with the new engine criteria set by the CAA and the aviation industry.

Any decisions on airspace closures are the responsibility of CAA and further information on the impacts of this increased activity should be sought from them.

Iceland Volcano latest observations

Related links:

CAA — UK Civil Aviation Authority

NATS — National Air Traffic Services

Icelandic Met Office: Update on activity

Notes to editors:

- As one of only two World Area Forecast Centres, the Met Office regularly advises the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and National Air Traffic Services.
- Met Office forecasters monitor volcanic eruptions as part of the Met Office's role in the global network of nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAAC).
- Volcanic ash can be dangerous for aircraft, causing damage, reducing visibility, and potentially clogging engines.
- The Met Office's Environment Monitoring and Response Centre is constantly monitoring the Iceland area. Our first advisory was issued at 1400 on 14 April and they have subsequently been updated every six hours.

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